SIR JOHN FRANKLIN - HIS LIFE AND WORK

Biographical Sketch.

The hero of this story was born April 15th, 1786, in the little inland town of Spilsby, Lincolnshire. His parents were engaged in trade, though all his ancestors were for many generations freehold farmers, as the name "Franklin" suggests. He was the ninth child in a family of twelve - four brothers and eight sisters. Two other brothers attained distinction - one in the Indian service and the other in law. A niece of Sir John Franklin later became Lady Tennyson, wife of the poet laureate.

Franklin's choice of seafaring as his profession was made on his first view of salt water at twelve years of age. His father tried to cure him of his obsession by sending him on a trial voyage of a trading ship to Lisbon, but without avail. At fifteen he obtained berth in the navy as midshipman, and was sent to the Baltic and took part in the battle of Copenhagen April 2nd, 1801, the fight which Nelson described as "The most terrible of his battles".

Franklin's passion for exploration was indicated by a desire to go on an expedition to Australia where he went on board the "Investigator", a naval vessel, commanded by Capt. Flinders, which was given the task of surveying the coast of Australia. The ship was so rotten that she was condemned before the task was nearly finished. Franklin was sent home on the "Porpoise" which was wrecked and her crew marooned for 50 days on a strip of sand in mid-ocean. Being rescued and carried to Canton, he sailed for England on the East Indiaman, "Earl of Camden." On the way home the squadron of 16 vessels of merchantships to which he belonged had an opera Bouffé naval battle with a French fleet of five warships, one of them an 84 gun ship. The British merchantmen actually chased the

French fleet. For his part in this adventure, Franklin was favorably mentioned. Arriving home he was transferred to the "Bellerophon" and was signal-midshipman during the battle of Trafalgar. The "Bellerophon" had 300 killed, but Franklin was unhurt except for a permanent injury to his hearing. Our hero now had ten years routine naval duties and study. In December 1814 he took part in the ill-fated attack on New Orleans. Franklin's part, and indeed the naval part of the expedition generally seems to have been well conducted, but after desperate fighting and heavy loss the attack as a whole failed. Franklin was wounded.

His first Arctic expedition was made in search of the northwest passage in command of the "Trent" in 1818. Two ships participated - the Dorothea under command of Buchan with 12 officers and 43 men, and the Trent under the command of Lt. Franklin with 10 officers and 28 men. They were cheerfully instructed to sail northward midway between Spitzbergen and Greenland and reach Behring Strait if the ice permitted. Latitude 80 was reached ~~was reached~~, but otherwise little was achieved except that Franklin's qualities were proved. To quote:-"His excellent seamanship, resourcefulness, disinterested love of science, perfect truthfulness and liberal candour in the recognition of the merits of his subordinates, his buoyant cheerfulnees of temper, sustained by a deep sense of religion, and his calm courage in danger."

His first Canadian land expedition covered the period from 1819 to 1822. The object was to determine the latitude and longitude of the Northern coast of North America, and the trending of that coast from the mouth of the Coppermine River to the eastern extremity of that continent. His principal associates were Dr. John Richardson, later Sir John Richardson, Surgeon and Naturalist, George Back, and Robt. Hood, midshipmen.

They followed the fur traders route from York Factory to Cumberland House on the Saskatchewan River. Arrangements had been made before leaving England for men, equipment and supplies, to be in readiness at Cumberland House. On arrival Franklin found to his dismay that owing to the bitter jealousy and rivalry between the Northwest and the Hudson Bay companies - then at the height of the so-called Fur Traders War - his instructions had not been carried out. Very little equipment and provision had been provided and no men. Nothing daunted however, Franklin went to work, secured what men he could at Cumberland House and left Richardson and Hood to bring on the supplies the next spring. Franklin and Back, with an old man-o-war's man named Hepburn, made a midwinter trip to Fort Chipewyan on Lake Athabasca, a distance of 857 miles. They had only 15 days' food when they left Cumberland House. A little simple arithmetic will show that they must either obtain food in the wilderness or go on short rations, or make nearly 60 miles a day, a manifestly impossible average. They reached Chipewyan on March 26th, and set about their preparations. On July 29th following, the expedition set out from Chipewyan with three days' food. It would be difficult anywhere in the annals of human endeavor to find another such example of sublime faith and courage as is instanced in this case where an expedition plunged into the heart of an uncharted wilderness to spent two years, taking along 32 men, 6 of them Europeans, 26 Canadians, and half-breeds with three women and three children, and depending upon the chances of the chase to furnish food. Moreover, owing to the difficulties already mentioned, even the supply of guns and ammunition was totally inadequate. The time was to come when the shortage of these absolute necessities was to prove disastrous. The expedition proceeded via Fort Providence on the northern arm of Great Slave Lake and the Yellow Knife River

to what was named Winter Lake, north of Great Slave Lake, the distance from Fort Chipewyan being 553 miles. Their winter quarters were established in the fall of 1820, the location being known as Fort Enterprise. Food and ammunition became so short during the winter that Back travelled 1100 miles on snow-shoes ,himself almost entirely without food, to Fort Chipewyan for a fresh supply. He then secured only a very small quantity. The officer in charge of Fort Providence, a Mr. Winter , seems to have played false with the expedition throughout, both in failing to co-operate in the furnishing of necessary supplies and in spreading stories among the Indians on whom the expedition largely depended for hunters to furnish food.

On June 14th, 1821, the expedition set out for the Arctic. They were accompanied by a Coppermine Indian chief, Akaitcho, and a number of his hunters, and they depended almost entirely for their food on such deer and fish as they could secure. They reached the Arctic Ocean via the Copper Mine River in July, and pressed on, surveying the coast to the eastward, until on August 18th they reached Point Turnagain and decided they must return or face certain death by starvation. Confronted by a terrible alternative, Franklin seems to have made at this time an unfortunate decision. They believed game would be more plentiful along the Hood River than the Coppermine and decided to return that way. They were bitterly disappointed. To begin with the expedition had been equipped with bark canoes for the ocean voyage among the ice. On leaving the ocean for the overland march across the barren ground, they attempted to carry two canoes. Needless to say the Canadians were not at all cheerful about this part of their task. Imagine carrying a bark canoe twenty feet or more in length on a man's back across a blizzard-swept country. The result was that before long, wilfully or accidentally, the men in charge

of the canoes managed to fall and smash them completely. The result was that when they reached Coppermine River as it was on the point of freezing up, they had no means of crossing. As is well known to travellers in the barren land, there was no wood suitable for a raft or indeed for fuel. The party were in a starving condition, having been driven to subsist by eating the putrid remains of deer which has been left behind by the animals of prey, and by making soup from Tripe de roche. The stomachs of some members of the party rebelled against this latter food and all were reduced to the condition of terrible emaciation. Dr. Richardson attempted to swim the icy current and carry across a line. He was so paralysed by the cold that it required nearly 24 hours to restore him. After several precious days lost, the Canadians contrived to make a sort of coracle with willow twigs and canvas with which the party were ferried over. Though they were less than 50 miles from Fort Enterprise, such was their condition that many days were spent in the trip. The party was divided and Lt. Back with the stronger members were sent on to Fort Enterprise to secure food and send it back to the rear guard. To his consternation Fort Enterprise was found deserted and abandoned. Arrangements had been made with the Indians who had been sent back from the Coppermine River in the early summer, to collect food and have it in readiness at Fort Enterprise. The Indians were certain Franklin and his companions would never return, consequently no food had been prepared. Back started out, starving as he was, to look for the Indians, or if need be, to press on to Fort Providence for relief. To such extremities were he and his fellows reduced that they collected some of the old hides from the garbage heap of the preceding winter and bones of the deer which had been consumed. The hides were scorched, to remove the hair, to boil and make soup. The bones were pounded up and added to the mixture after being roasted. On

this they lived for several days, eking it out by the addition of fragments from their leather clothing and mocassins. In time they fell in with the Akaitcho's Indians, and sent food back to Fort Enterprise just in time to rescue from death by starvation the remnants of the main party to whose fortunes we return for a moment. Franklin and Richardson with midshipman Hood and the remainder of the party struggled on after Back had left them. Finally, the party divided again; Franklin with some of the stronger men pushed on to Fort Enterprise with Richardson and Hood bringing up the rear. On reaching Fort Enterprise they found, as Back had done, that it was deserted. Being too weak to proceed further they rummaged in the garbage heap for fragments of skin and bones on which they lived. They were so weak that they were actually unable to shoot deer which appeared nearby. Meanwhile Richardson and Hood were struggling to bring in the remainder of the party. Michel, an Iroquois Indian, is believed to have murdered two of his companions, and to have resorted to cannibalism. We know for certain that he did shoot Hood. For this crime he himself was shot by Dr. Richardson. Finally Richardson with a few survivors struggled through to join Franklin and at the last stage of starvation after all the Canadians but one had died, three Indians from Akaitcho's band arrived at Fort Enterprise with food and carefully nursed Franklin and his unfortunate men back to life. The following summer Franklin returned to England, and to use his own words: "And thus terminated our long and fatiguing and disastrous travels in North America, having travelled by water and by land, including our navigation of the Polar Sea, 5550 miles."

It is interesting to note a few experiences and instances on this expedition and the impressions of a trained observer like Franklin. His comments on insect pests is particularly pointed.

"The musquitoes of America resemble, in shape, those of Africa and Europe, but differ essentially in size and other particulars. There are two distinct species, the largest of which is brown, and the smallest black. Where they are bred cannot easily be determined, for they are numerous in every soil. They make their first appearance in May, and the cold destroys them in September; in July they are most voracious; and fortunately for the traders, the journeys from the trading posts to the factories are generally concluded at that period. The food of the musquito is blood, which it can extract by penetrating the hide of a buffalo; and if it is not disturbed, it gorges itself so as to swell its body into a transparent globe. The wound does not swell, like that of the African musquito, but it is infinitely more painful; and when multiplied an hundred fold, and continued for so many successive days, it becomes an evil of such magnitude, that cold, famine, and every other concomitant of an inhospital climate, must yield the pre-eminence to it. It chases the buffalo to the plains, irritating him to madness; and the rein-deer to the sea-shore, from which they do not return till the scourge has ceased.

On the 6th ~~the 6th~~ the thermometer was 106° in the sun, and on the 7th 110°. The musquitoes sought the shade in the heat of the day, which we felt no inclination to contend with them. It was some satisfaction to us to see the havoc made among them by a large and beautiful species of dragon fly, called the musquito hawk, which wheeled through their retreats, swallowing its prey without a momentary diminution of its speed. But the temporary relief that we had hoped for was only an exchange of tormentors: our new assailant, the horse-fly, or bull-dog, ranged in the hottest glare of the sun, and carried off a portion of flesh at each attack. Another noxious insect, the smallest, but not the least formidable, was the sand-fly, known in Canada by the name of the brulot. To such annoyance all travellers must submit, and it would be unworthy to complain of that grievance in the pursuit of knowledge, which is endured for the sake of profit. This detail of it has only been made as an excuse for the scantiness of our observations on the most interesting part of the country through which we passed."

Again, a little picture of Indian life:

"Akaitcho caused himself to be paddled by his slave, a young man, of the Dog-rib nation, whom he had taken by force from his friends; when he thought himself, however, out of reach of our observation, he laid aside a good deal of his state, and assisted in the labour; and, after a few days' further acquaintance with us, he did not hesitate to paddle in our presence, or even carry his canoe on the portages. Several of the canoes were managed by women, who proved to be noisy companions, for they quarrelled frequently, and the weakest was generally profuse in her lamentations, which were not at all diminished, when the husband attempted to settle the difference by a few blows ~~of~~ with his paddle."

Again, as to some of the pecularities of the French Canadian voyageurs and the severe cold:

"On the 15th seven of our men arrived from Fort Providence with two kegs of rum, one barrel of powder, sixty pounds of ball, two rolls of tobacco, and some clothing. They had been twenty-one days on their march from Slave Lake, and the labour they underwent was sufficiently evinced by their sledge-collars having worn out the shoulders of their coats. Their loads weighed from sixty to ninety pounds each, exclusive of their bedding and provisions, which at starting must have been at least as much more. We were much rejoiced at their arrival, and proceeded forthwith to pierce the spirit cask, and issue to each of the household the portion of rum which had been promised to them on the first day of the year. The spirits, which were proof, were frozen, but after standing at the fire for some time they flowed out of the consistency of honey. The temperature of the liquid, even in this state, was so low as instantly to convert into ice the moisture which condensed on the surface of the dram-glass. The fingers also adhered to the glass, and would, doubtless, have been speedily frozen had they been kept in contact with it, yet each of the voyagers swallowed his dram without experiencing the slightest inconvenience, or complaining even of the tooth-ache."

The extremes of starvation reached by the party are indicated by the following quotation:

"About noon the weather cleared up a little, and, to our great joy, we saw a herd of musk-oxen grazing in a valley below us. The party instantly halted, and the best hunters were sent out; they approached the animals with the utmost caution, no less than two hours being consumed before they got within gun-shot. In the mean time we beheld their proceedings with extreme anxiety, and many secret prayers were, doubtless, offered up for their success. At length they opened their fire, and we had the satisfaction of seeing one of the largest cows fall; another was wounded, but escaped. This success infused spirit into our starving party. To skin and cut up the animal was the work of a few minutes. The contents of its stomach were devoured upon the spot, and the raw intestines, which were next attacked, were pronounced by the most delicate amongst us to be excellent. A few willows, whose tops were seen peeping through the snow in the bottom of the valley, were quickly grubbed, the tents pitched, and supper cooked, and devoured with avidity. This was the sixth day since we had had a good meal. The tripe de roche, even where we got enough, only serving to ally the pangs of hunger for a short time. After supper, two of the hunters went in pursuit of the herd, but could not get near them."

Franklin's description of the arrival at Fort Enterprise:

"Here we enjoyed the comfort of a large fire for the first time since our departure from the sea-coast; but this gratification was purchased at the expense of many severe falls that we had in crossing a stony valley, to get to these pines. There was no tripe de roche,

and we drank tea and ate some of our shoes for supper. Next morning, after taking the usual repast of tea, we proceeded to the house. Musing on what we were likely to find there, our minds were agitated between hope and fear, and, contrary to the custom we had kept up, of supporting our spirits by conversation, we went silently forward.

At length we reached Fort Enterprise, and to our infinite disappointment and grief found it a perfectly desolate habitation. There was no deposit of provision, no trace of the Indians, no letter from Mr. Wentzel to point out where the Indians might be found. It would be impossible for me to describe our sensations after entering this miserable abode, and discovering how we had been neglected: the whole party shed tears, not so much for our own fate, as for that of our friends in the rear, whose lives depended entirely on our sending immediate relief from this place."

"We now looked round for the means of subsistence, and were gratified to find several deer skins, which had been thrown away during our former residence. The bones were gathered from the heap of ashes, these with the skins, and the addition of tripe de roche, we considered would support us tolerably well for a time. As to the house, the parchment being torn from the windows, the apartment we selected for our abode was exposed to all the rigour of the season. We endeavoured to exclude the wind as much as possible, by placing loose boards against the apertures. The temperature was now between 15° and 20° below zero. We procured fuel by pulling up the flooring of the other rooms, and water for the purpose of cooking, by melting the snow. Whilst we were seated round the fire, singeing the deer skin for supper, we were rejoiced by the unexpected entrance of Augustus. He had followed quite a different course from ours, and the circumstance of his having found his way through a part of the country he had never been in before, must be considered a remarkable proof of sagacity. The unusual earliness of this winter became manifest to us from the state of things at this spot. Last year at the same season, and still later, there had been very little snow on the ground, and we were surrounded by vast herds of rein-deer. Now there were but few recent tracks of these animals, and the snow was upwards of two feet deep. Winter River was then open, now it was frozen two feet thick.

When I arose the following morning, my body and limbs were so swollen that I was unable to walk more than a few yards. Adam was in a still worse condition, being absolutely incapable of rising without assistance. My other companions fortunately experienced this inconvenience in a less degree, and went to collect bones, and some tripe de roche which supplied us with two meals. The bones were quite acrid, and the soup extracted from them excoriated the mouth if taken alone, but it was somewhat milder when boiled with tripe de roche, and we even thought the mixture palatable, with the addition of salt, of which a cask had been fortunately left here in the spring. Augustus to-day set two fishing lines below the rapid. On his way thither he saw two deer, but had not strength to follow them."

Another story of hardship:

"In the day-time we fell into the practice of conversing on common and light subjects, although we sometimes discussed with seriousness and earnestness topics connected with religion. We generally avoided speaking directly of our present sufferings, or even of the prospect of relief. I observed, that in proportion as our strength decayed, our minds exhibited symptoms of weakness, evinced by a kind of unreasonable pettishness with each other. Each of us thought the other weaker in intellect than himself, and more in need of advice and assistance. So trifling a circumstance as a change of place, recommended by one as being warmer and more comfortable, and refused by the other from a dread of motion, frequently called forth fretful expressions which were no sooner uttered than atoned for, to be repeated perhaps in the course of a few minutes. The same thing often occurred when we endeavoured to assist each other in carrying wood to the fire; none of us were willing to receive assistance, although the task was disproportioned to our strength. On one of these occasions Hepburn was so convinced of this waywardness that he exclaimed, "Dear me, if we are spared to return to England, I wonder if we shall recover our understandings."

On his return to England in August, 1823, Franklin married Miss Porden. On the following June his only child was born - a daughter. His wife's health was very delicate, and he had been placed under the necessity of leaving her, for his next expedition, in a very low condition.

Franklin's second land expedition through Canada covered the period 1825-27. His plan was to proceed via the McKenzie River and explore the coast from east to west from the mouth, co-operating with a naval expedition via the Behring Sea. He was accompanied again by Dr. Richardson, Lieut. Back and Lieut. Kendall, also a Mr. Drummond joined the expedition as assistant-naturalist. The main party were sent as before via York Factory, but Franklin and the officers left England the following spring travelling via New York, Montreal, and Penetanguishene. At the last place mentioned, Franklin heard the news of his wife's death. While this grieved him, he does not seem for a moment to have hesitated in pressing forward. Following the usual

fur traders route via Cumberland, Carlton House, over land by Isle la Crosse, the Clear Water River and the Athabasca, the expedition reached Fort Resolution on Great Slave Lake on July 29th, 1825. Preparations for this second expedition were much better in hand. In the intervals since 1821, the fur trading companies had amalgamated, and much better co-operation was secured. Profiting also by previous experience, Franklin had boats built in England suitable to navigation on the northern rivers and the Arctic coast. These proved on trial to more than justify their expectations. As an interesting incident, Franklin notes that on arrival at Fort Resolution the Canadians asked for a dance, and to his astonishment, though they had been paddling steadily for 36 out of the previous 39 hours, they danced all night to the music of the bagpipes and Jew's harp. They arrived at Fort Norman on August 7th after an unusually quick trip. Here the party divided. Back and Richardson went to Great Bear Lake, Back to establish winter quarters with the assistance of Mr. Dease, a Hudson Bay officer, and Richardson, to explore the north shore of Great Bear Lake. Richardson's plan was to settle upon the best point in Great Bear Lake to head for on returning the next summer from the Coppermine River. He fixed upon Dease Bay, as it was later called, as the place. This was later the site of Fort Confidence. Franklin himself made reconnaissance to the mouth of the McKenzie. He was only six days going from Fort Norman to the sea. He returned and the party rendezvoused at Great Bear Lake on September 5th. Winter quarters were established at a point where Great Bear River flows out of the Lake, and it had been named in Franklin's absence, Fort Franklin. Their experience here proved very different to that at Fort Enterprise. The winter party numbered 50.

On the whole they were well fed and happy during the long winter, occupied by games, fishing, work and study. An additional boat was also built. On June 22nd, 1826, the expedition started for its voyage of discovery. Franklin and Back with the boats "Reliance"and "Lion" went west from the mouth of the McKenzie, and Richardson and Kendall with the boats named "Dolphin" and"Union" went East. The western party encountered many difficulties - hostile natives, ice, fog, and storms all had their part. On August 18th they reached the farthest west point known as "Return Reef" 374 miles from the mouth of the McKenzie. Here they reluctantly turned back. Had they known it, ~~they~~ they were only 150 miles from a boat party sent out from the ship "Blossom" which was pressing eastward from Behring Strait. However, it is probably fortunate that they did not have this information as in all probability they would have pressed on to certain disaster owing to the ice conditions. They returned to Fort Norman on September 21st, after travelling 2048 miles, 610 miles of this distance being new exploration.

The Eastern party made Coronation Gulf on August 7th, thus tying in with work of previous expedition. Dolphin and Union Straits commemorate the names of boats. Lieut. Kendall's sketches indicate something of their adventures. They reached Fort Norman via the Coppermine River, Dease River and Great Bear Lake on September 1st, having travelled 1980 miles, 1015 of which consisted of new exploration. The main party wintered at Fort Norman. Franklin and Richardson set out in midwinter, the former on his way to England, and the latter to join Drummond. Drummond, who it will be remembered, was the Assistant Naturalist of the expedition, separated from the others at Fort Carlton, and proceeded to the upper waters of the Athabasca and Peace Rivers. He was one of the earliest scientists to visit Edmonton and neighboring country.

His story is best told in his own words:

"I remained at Cumberland House about six weeks after the departure of Captain Back and Mr. Kendall, in June, 1825, when the Company's boats with the brigade of traders for the Columbia, arriving from York Factory, I accompanied them up the Saskatchewan River two hundred and sixty miles to Carlton House. The unsettled state of the Indians in that neighborhood rendering excursions over the plains very unsafe, I determined on proceeding with the brigade as far as the Rocky Mountains. We left Carlton House on the 1st of September, and reached Edmonton, which is about four hundred miles distant on the 20th of the same month. Sandy plains extend without material alteration the whole way, and there is, consequently, little variety in the vegetation; indeed, I did not find a single plant that I had not seen within ten miles of Carlton House, although I had an opportunity of examining the country carefully, having performed the greater part of the journey on foot. After a halt of two days at Edmonton, we continued our route one hundred miles farther to Fort Assinaboyn on the Red Deer River, one of the branches of the Athapescow. This part of the journey was performed with horses through a swampy and thickly wooded country, and the path was so bad, that it was necessary to reduce the luggage as much as possible. I therefore took with me only one bale of paper for drying plants, a few shirts, and a blanket; Mr. McMillan, one of the Company's chief traders, who had charge of the brigade, kindly undertaking to forward the rest of my baggage in the ensuing spring. We left Fort Assinaboyn to proceed up the Red Deer River to the Mountains, on the 2nd of October; but the canoe appointed for this service being very much lumbered, it was necessary that some of the party should travel by land, and of that number, I volunteered to be one. A heavy fall of snow, on the third day after setting out, rendered the march very fatiguing, and the country being thickly wooded and very swampy, our horses were rendered useless before we had travelled half the distance.

We reached the Mountains on the 14th, and I continued to accompany the brigade, for fifty miles of the Portage-road, to the Columbia, when we met a hunter whom Mr. McMillan hired to supply me with food during the winter. The same gentleman having furnished me with horses and a man to take care of them, I set out with the hunter and his family towards the Smoking River, one of the eastern branches of the Peace River, on which we intended to winter. My guide, however, loitered so much on the way, that the snow became too deep to admit of our proceeding to our destination, and we were under the necessity of leaving the Mountains altogether, and taking up our winter-quarters about the end of December, on the Baptiste, a stream which falls into the Red Deer River. During the journey, I collected a few specimens of the birds that pass the winter in the country, and which belong principally to the genera tetrao and strix. I also obtained a few mosses, and on Christmas day, I had the pleasure of finding a very minute gymnostomum, hitherto undescribed.

In the winter, I felt the inconvenience of the want of my tent, the only shelter I had from the inclemency of the weather being a hut built of the branches of trees. Soon after reaching our wintering ground, provisions became very scarce, and the hunter and his family went off in quest of animals, taking with them the

man who had charge of my horses to bring me a supply as soon as they could procure it. I remained alone for the rest of the winter, except when my man occasionally visited me with meat; and I found the time hang very heavy, as I had no books, and nothing could be done in the way of collecting specimens of Natural History. I took, however, a walk every day in the woods to give me some practice in the use of snow shoes. The winter was very severe, and much snow fell until the end of March, when it averaged six feet in depth; in consequaance of this, I lost one of my horses, and the two remaining ones became exceedingly poor. The hunter was still more unfortunate, ten of his young colts having died.

In the beginning of April, 1826, setting out for the Columbia Portage road, I reached it after a fatiguing march on the sixth day, and, two days afterwards, had the pleasure of meeting Mr. McMillan, who brought me letters from Dr. Richardson, informing me of the welfare of the Expedition; and he also placed me in comparatively comfortable circumstances by bringing my tent, a little tea and sugar, and some more ~~more~~ paper. I remained on the Portage preparing specimens of birds until the 6th of May, when the brigade from the Columbia arrived. On that day the Anemone cuneifolia, and Ludoviciana and Saxifraga oppositifolia, began to flower in favourable situations. My hunter, who had, in the mean time, returned to our later wintering ground, now sent me word that he had changed his mind, and would not accompany me into the Mountains, as he had engaged to do. His fickleness deranged my plans, and I had no alternative but to remain with the man who had charge of the horses used on the Columbia Portage, and botanize in that neighborhood.

On the 10th of August, I set out with another hunter, upon whom I had prevailed to conduct me to the Smoking River, although , being disappointed in a supply of ammunition, we were badly provided. We travelled for several days without meeting with any animals, and I shared the little dried provision which I had with the hunter's family. On the 15th we killed a Mountain sheep, which was quickly devoured, there not being the smallest apprehension at the time that famine would overtake us - day after day, however, passed away without a single head of game of any description being seen, and the children began to complain loudly; but the hunter's wife, a young half-breed woman, bore the abstinence with indifference, although she had two infant twins at the breast. On the 21st, we found two young porcupines, which were shared amongst the party, and two or three days afterwards, a few fine trout were caught. We arrived in the Smoking River on the 5th of September, where the hunter killed two sheep, and ~~an~~ a period was put to our abstinence, for before the sheep were eaten, he shot several buffaloes.

We proceeded along the Mountains until the 24th of September, and had reached the head waters of the Peace River, when a heavy fall of snow stopped my collecting plants for that season. I was, however, very desirous of crossing the Mountains to obtain some knowledge of the vegetation on the Columbia River, and, accordingly, I commenced drying provisions to enable me to accompany the Columbia Brigade, when it arrived from Hudson's Bay. I reached the Portage on the 9th of October, and on the 10th the brigade arrived, and I received letters from Captain Franklin, instructing me to descend in the spring of 1827, time enough to rejoin the Expedition on its way to York Factory. It was, therefore, necessary that I should speedily commence my return, and having gone with the brigade merely to the west-end of the Portage, I came back again on the 1st of November. The snow covered the ground too deeply to permit me to

add much to my collections in this hasty trip over the Mountains, but it was impossible to avoid remarking the great superiority of climate on the western side of that lofty range. From the instant the descent towards the Pacific commences, there is a visible improvement in the growth of timber, and the variety of forest greatly increases. The few mosses that I gleaned in the excursion were so fine, that I could not but deeply regret that I was unable to pass a season or two in that interesting region.

Having packed up all my specimens, I embarked on the Red Deer River, with Mr. McDonald, one of the Company's officers, who was returning from a long residence on the Columbia with his family, and continued to descend the stream until we were set fast by the frost. I then left Mr. McDonald in charge of the baggage, and, proceeding on foot to Fort Assinaboyn, for the purpose of procuring horses, I reached it on the fifth day. It was several days before the horses could be obtained, and they were several more in travelling from the Fort to Mr. McDonald, during which time that gentleman and his family were very short of provisions. The relief, however, arrived opportunely, and they reached the Fort in safety. After resting a few days, I set out for Edmonton, where I remained for some months.

The winter express brought me a letter from Dr. Richardson, requesting me to join him at Carlton House in April, and I accordingly set out for that place on snow shoes, on the 17th of March, taking with me single specimens of all the plants gathered on the Mountains, lest any accident should to the duplicates which were to come by canoe in the spring. Two men with a sledge drawn by dogs accompanied me, but the Indian inhabitants of the plains being very hostile, we made a large circuit to avoid them, and did not reach Carlton House before the 5th of April. We suffered much from snow-blindness on the march, the dogs failed from want of food, we had to carry the baggage on our backs, and had nothing to eat for seven days. These sufferings were, however, soon forgotten in the kind welcome I received from Dr. Richardson, and Mr. Prudens, the Company's Chief Trader at Carlton, and the hospitable entertainment and good fare of the latter gentleman's table enabled me speedily to recruit my lost strength."

My collections on the Mountains amounted to about fifteen hundred species of plants, one hundred and fifty birds, fifty quadrupeds, and a considerable number of insects."

The result of this expedition was the mapping of over 1000 miles of hitherto unknown coast, and the collection of an enormous amount of invaluable scientific information. Franklin was knighted and given an honorary degree at Oxford in recognition of his work.

In November 1828, Franklin was married again to Miss Griffin, the Lady Franklin of history, a woman of rare qualities and character. During 1830-33 he was occupied in naval service in the Mediterranean, being stationed at Patras during the Greek troubles. He distinguished

himself here by his ability and tact.

On his ship paying off, he was sent as Governor to Van Dieman's Land "Tasmania" where he spent six years. He had to deal with problems of a colonial governor in a convict colony. In the main his record seems to have been very fine, though at the end he fell out with Lord Stanley, then Colonial Secretary.

In 1845 he set out on his last expedition, strangely enough the one by which he is best known. In comparison with previous expeditions this was a much more pretentious effort. He was given two ships, the "Erebus" and "Terror" which carried a compliment of 67 men each. He had under him Captains Fitzjames and Crozier with the usual compliment of officers and men. His instructions were to discover the northwest passage, sailing via Davis Strait and Lancaster Sound, after which he was to follow his own judgment. Incidentally, all the scientific information possible was to be collected. Direct word was received only twice after the expedition sailed - once from a transport which accompanied the ships to Greenland waters, and once from a whaler which reported having seen the ships moored to the ice. Fourteen years passed before the fate of the expedition was definitely known. It had been provisioned for three years, and as year passed into year with no news, the nation became anxious. Sir John Franklin himself had high hopes that the objective would be easily attained; indeed, not only had he expected to achieve the northwest passage, but was confident that the north pole would be reached by a sledge party. We are only able to piece out in a fragmentary way the story. It seems that the first year was unusually successful. Passing through Lancaster Sound, the ships pressed northward through Wellington Channel reaching the latitude of 80 degrees or more.

They were then carried on through a channel further west to Beechey Island where the winter was spent. This we know from two sources - first, the graves of the three men who died during the winter were later discovered with head stones and inscriptions on Beechey Island; second, we have definite information in the only scanty record ever found that they did winter there. The following year they were carried by the ice to a point at the northern end of William's Island where the ships were beset by ice and from which position they were never released. They drifted finally to within about fifteen miles off the coast known as Point Victory. Meanwhile a sledge party under the command of Lieut. Gore had travelled westward a sufficient distance to close in the gap between Back's explorations in 1833 and their ship. Thus it is known that Franklin actually achieved the northwest passage, although before we had this information it had been achieved again by a search party under the command of Capt. McClure. Twenty-one search parties in all were despatched to look for Franklin and his companions. It was not until 1859 that final success was achieved in the search. An expedition fitted out largely through the private means of Lady Franklin who persevered, after the Admiralty and other agencies had given up hope, found the only official record of the Franklin expedition. Capt. McClintock in a little refitted yacht "The Fox" a tiny ship, 177 tons burthen with auxillary steam power, Guided by results obtained by Dr. Rae, a Hudson Bay officer who had previously found a few Franklin relics in the hands of the Eskimos, Capt. McClintock proceeded directly to the neighborhood of William's Land, and in May 1859 several discoveries were made which put forever to rest any doubt as to what had become of Franklin and his companions.

First Lieut Hobson in command of a sledge party from the "Fox" found a cairn containing a document which had been buried annotated by officers of Franklin's expedition. The first record was to the effect that the ships had wintered at Beechey Island the first winter and then been carried to a place on William's Island and that all were well. The second notation about a year later indicated that the brave Franklin was dead, that five officers and fifteen men had already been lost, that the survivors, 105 in number, had been reduced to the desperate expedient of abandoning the ships in the ice and attempting a march overland to Back's River in search of food. Other searches resulted in the finding of a number of skeletons and one of the boats of the ship, with numerous relics including two skeletons in all and sufficiant information from the neighboring Eskimos to set at rest all doubt. What seems to have happened is that the main party after several days' march dragging two whale boats with them had separated, the stronger to push on and the weaker to bring up the rear, that all the former party perished in their forward march, that the rear guard decided in despair to turn back to the ship for food and perished in the effort. The Eskimos' accounts state that they had seen a party of white men drag a boat and that they fell down and died one by one as they walked. Only one skeleton was ever identified. This was found many years afterward by Lieut. Schwatka of the United States navy. It was identified as that of Lieut. Irving. Thus perished Franklin and his brave companions. As one of his biographers concludes his book "Franklin rests, having achieved his work". He did it manfully, nobly and unselfishly. May it long be the boast of England that she has ever ready ~~with~~ thousands

of other brave sons, who, whenever occasion shall arise will tread as fearlessly and unflinchingly the path of duty and of glory."
In Westminster Abbey is a marble monument which bears this inscription written by Lord Tennyson:

"Not here! the White North hath thy bones, and thou
Heroic Sailor Soul!
Art passing on thy happier voyage now
Towards no earthly Pole."

E. A Corbett

LIST OF SLIDES

FRANKLIN'S LECTURE

1. Sir John Franklin. This is from the best-known portrait of Sir. John Franklin.

2. "Dorothea" and "Trent"- ships of the first Franklin expedition, beset by ice at Spitzbergen 1818.

3. The sea-washed face of King's Glacier at Spitzbergen. At this point the ice rises in a perpendicular wall 1 foot from the water. From it bergs are continually being detached.

4. An out-post of the Arctic pack, photographed off Newfoundland.

5. An isolated iceberg - sketch by a member of the McClintock expedition.

6. A map which illustrates the route of Franklin's first land journey from Great Slave Lake via the Yellow Knife and Coppermine River to Coronation Gulf, thence eastward along the coast to Point Turnigain, thence back to Fort Enterprise via Hood River.

7. The interior of a Cree Indian tent -drawn by Lieut Hood on March 25, 1820. This gives a very good idea of one impression of Indian life as seen by the explorers.

8. Hill River - a scene in the country lying between Hudson Bay and Norway House. - drawn by Lieut. Hood, Sept. 19th, 1819.

9. Trout Fall, in the same country near Oxford House.

10. Lieut. Back's impression received from making a winter camp in the Canadian wilds. - Drawn by Lieut. Back March 15th, 1820.

11. This picture illustrates one method of hunting xxx Buffalo.

12. The artist's impression of winter travelling on lake ice.- drawn by Lieut. Back.

12a Keskarrah was a very well known Copper Indian guide. His daughter "Green Stocking" was a belle of the tribe. Although she was only sixteen years of age at the time this sketch was made, she had already been twice married. Twelve years later Capt. Back refers to her as the mother of a considerable family but still a notable beauty among her people. - Drawn by Lieut. Back.

13. A winter view of Fort Enterprise, the base of the first land expedition 1820-21, and the scene of fearful hardships already described of Franklin's party and companions. Drawn by Lieut. Back.

14. Portrait of Stony Indian. Drawn by Lieut. Back.

15. An incident of navigation in Arctic waters with birch-bark canoes. Drawn by Lieut. Back, Aug. 23, 1821.

16. Esquimaux interpreters - Junius and Augustus. Augustus was a very noble character. He accompanied both of Franklin's expeditions, and twelve years afterwards died of starvation in attempting the overland trip from Fort Churchill to Great Slave Lake in an effort to join Capt. Back on his exploration of the Back River. All through the Franklin narratives there are repeated tributes to the tact, sagacity and loyalty of this Esquimo native.

17. Midnight view of the mouth of Coppermine River. A notable feature here is the number of Islands which stud the sea coast. Drawn by Lieut. Back July 20th, 1821.

18, Portrait of Akaitcho and son. Akaitcho at the time of the Franklin expedition was the Chief of the Copper Knife Indians. It is due to his loyal friendship and co-operation that the first expedition was possible at all, as he and his hunters kept them in food; also he was responsible for the final rescue of Franklin at Fort Enterprise in the Spring of 1822. On the whole he appears to have been an unusually intelligent and fine type of Indian. Drawn by Lieut. Hood.

19. Making camp in barren grounds and gathering tripe de roche.

20. Bloody Fall, Coppermine River, so named by Samuel Hearne in commemoration of a horrible massacre of Esquimaux by Indians of Hearne's party in first exploration of Coppermine River, July 11,1821. Drawn by Back

21. Expedition doubling Cape Barrow. Another incident of navigation in Arctic waters by canoe. Drawn by Lieut. Back, July 25th, 1821.

22. Expedition landing in a storm. Another incident of navigation in Arctic waters by canoe. Drawn by Lieut. Back Aug. 23, 1821.

23. Point Turnagain, the farthest point reached by Franklin's first land expedition. Drawn by Lieut. Back Aug. 21st, 1821.

24. Dr. Richardson, later "Sir John", Sir John Franklin's loyal colleague who accompanied him in two expeditions and commanded one search party.

25. Musk-oxen. According to the description of early travellers, musk-oxen have a characteristic method of defence when attacked. If the herd is large the bulls form a circle enclosing the cows, and calves; facing outward in this formation they are able to withstand the attacks of the dogs, wolves, etc. If there are no bulls with the herd, the cows and older animals take their place. It is said that it is possible to kill practically the entire herd before they will break formation.

26. Surprise party. A Greenlander having killed a seal, was engaged in dressing it when he felt a tap on his shoulder. Looking around he found a huge polar bear which decided to join him at supper. Needless to say the bear obtained the right of way.

27. Valley of Clearwater River from Methye Portage, The only considerable break in water navigation from Hudson Bay to the Arctic is represented by this portage which is about 1000 feet in height and twelve miles long from Methye Lake to the Clearwater River. The Clearwater is better known to us to-day as the northern terminus of the Alberta and Great Waterways Railway.
Drawn by Lieut. Back, July 16th, 1825.

28. A winter view of Fort Franklin on xx Great Bear Lake, headquarters of the 2nd Franklin expedition 1825-26. Drawn by Lieut. Back.

29. Views on the Mackenzie River as seen by Franklin's second expedition.

30. This and the following picture are different parts of the same incident, picturing an encounter between Franklin's party and a large number of Esquimaux who attempted to plunder the boats, and as Franklin found afterwards they had a plot to murder the whole party. This was frustrated. Drawn by Lieut. Back.

30a. By the strategy illustrated in this picture.

31. Camp of western party at Foggy Island where they were detained for some days by inpenetrable fog. Franklin, who seldom betrayed impatience referred to this place as "This detestable Island". Drawn by Lieut. Back. Aug. 9th, 1826.

32. Esquimaux types, West of the Mackenzie River. Drawn by Lieut. Back July 9th, 1826.

33. An Esquimaux belle west of the Mackenzie River. Drawn by Lieut. Back July 9th, 1826.

34. Esquimaux ~~belle-west-of~~ tools and weapons.

35. Winter houses of Esquimaux, west of Mackenzie River. On the Arctic Coast the natives are entirely dependent on driftwood as their souce of supply; as they are lacking in adequate tools to work up the material, the somewhat weird appearance of their dwelling is accounted for. Drawn by Lt. Back, July 12th, 1826.

36. Arctic navigation in difficulty. Drawn by Lt. Back Aug. 24th, 1826.

37. An adventure of the Eastern party under command of Dr. Richardson. Drawn by Lt. Kendall, July 7th, 1826.

38. Dolphin - one of Richardson's boats - in difficulties among the ice. Drawn by Lt. Kendall.

39. Esquimaux winter house on Atkinson Island. Drawn by Lt. Kendall, July 13th, 1826.

40. Ground plan and cross section of interior of the same house. Drawn by Lt. Kendall, July 13th, 1826.

41. View of barren lands, August 17th, 1826, during the trip of Richardson's party from the Coppermine to Dease Bay on Great Bear Lake. Drawn by Lt. Kendall, Aug. 17th, 1826.

42. This map illustrates in a graphic way the extent to which knowledge of the Arctic regions was expanded by the work of British naval officers during the second decade of the 19th Century.

43. Lady Jane Franklin, Sir John's second wife.

44. McClintock's ship, "The Fox", on a rock on Buchan Island on the west coast of Greenland.

45. "The Fox" steaming out of the ice during a gale.

46. Interior of McClintock's observatory. A remarkable thing about nearly all Arctic expeditions is the meticulous care with which scientific observations and records were made. Even at times when parties were in the last extremity, subsisting upon their leather clothing and tripe de roche or on nothing at all for the time being, observations of latitude, longitude, dip and variations were carefully recorded, and Franklin's narratives contain pages of results of such observations. Wherever an expedition wintered one of the first preparations was the building of an observatory for the proper housing of instruments, and all through the winter records were taken at intervals of three hours night and day.

47. McClintock in a small boat exploring Bellot Strait, one of the passages discovered by searchers for Franklin.

48. Typical cairn for deposit of records for Arctic travellers.

48a. The only official record ever found of the Franklin expedition. Found by Lt. Hobson of McClintock's party 1859, twelve years after it had been deposited.

49. The Hobson party opening the cairn.

50. Franklin relics now in the United Service Museum, London, England.

51. Sketch map of Arctic regions at the time of Franklin's last expedition.

52. Maps to illustrate journeys of Sir John Franklin in the Arctic regions.

53. Monument to Sir John Franklin in Hobart Town, Tasmania.